

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A process for ~~Process for the purification of reduction of bromine index in~~ aromatics, comprising the steps of:
 - (I) feeding an aromatics feed stream which contains olefin impurities to a multi-stage distillation column;
 - (II) ~~then first~~ subjecting the aromatics feed stream to a distillation process in said distillation column;
 - (III) ~~then~~ withdrawing an overhead stream ~~and/or a product stream~~ from the column;
 - (IV) ~~then~~ subjecting at least a ~~part~~ portion of the overhead stream ~~and/or a product stream~~ to a treatment for the alkylation or polymerization of olefins in a clay treater to provide a purified overhead stream; and
 - (V) ~~then re-injecting an outlet~~ injecting the purified overhead stream of ~~from~~ the clay treater to into the aromatics feed stream.
2. (currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1, characterized in that the aromatics feed stream is fed to the distillation column at ~~a tray about half way up~~ about a middle stage of the distillation column.
3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 2, characterized in that ~~one part of~~ the withdrawn overhead stream is ~~sent back~~ condensed

and at least a portion of the condensed overhead stream returned to the distillation column as reflux.

5-8 (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim ~~84~~, characterized in that ~~the~~ a portion of the condensed overhead stream is heated and pressurized ~~condensed drag stream is, prior to treatment in the entering the clay treater, heated in a heat exchanger and pressurized.~~

10. (currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 4 ~~any of the preceding~~ ~~claims~~, characterized in that the aromatics feed stream ~~is fed to the distillation column~~ with has a bromine index of 300 to 1000.

11. (currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim ~~109~~, characterized in that the aromatics feed stream has bromine index is 500 to 700.

12. (currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 4, characterized in that a benzene distillate is a product stream is withdrawn from the distillation column as side cut at a tray a distillation stage higher than the stage at which the aromatics feed stream location is fed to the distillation column.

13. (currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 12, characterized in that heat is supplied to the distillation column by ~~a reboiler at the column bottom~~ by heating up a bottom stream from having left the distillation column in a reboiler and being at least partly re-introduced re-introducing at least a portion of the heated bottom stream to a bottom stage of the distillation column.

14. (currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 13, characterized in that the bottom stream comprises toluene, xylene and heavier ~~olefines~~ olefins and aromatics.
15. (currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 12, characterized in that the aromatics feed stream is fed to the distillation column at a temperature of ~~50 to 100°C~~ 75°C to 90°C and a pressure of ~~1 to 10~~ 1 barg to 5 barg.
16. (canceled)
17. (currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 13, characterized in that the aromatics feed stream is fed to the distillation column at a temperature of 75°C to 90°C and a pressure of 1 barg to 5 barg, the bottom stream leaves the distillation column at a temperature of ~~120 to 170°C~~ 130°C to 150°C, and the product ~~overhead~~ stream leaves the distillation column at a temperature of ~~75 to 100°C~~ 85°C to 95°C.
18. (canceled)
19. (currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to ~~any of the preceding claims 6 to 18~~ claim 9, characterized in that the drag stream portion of the withdrawn overhead stream ~~to be subjected~~ which is treated in the clay treater is ~~removed with a flow rate of 0.01-0.10 of reflux flow rate~~ as large as the withdrawn overhead stream returned to the distillation column as reflux.
20. (currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 19, characterized in that the ~~drag stream is removed with a flow rate of 0.03-0.05 of reflux flow rate~~ portion of the

withdrawn overhead stream which is treated in the clay treater is 0.03-0.05 as large as the withdrawn overhead stream returned to the distillation column as reflux.

21. (currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 9, characterized in that the ~~drag stream to be subjected in the clay treater is~~ withdrawn overhead stream treated in the clay treater is at a temperature of ~~150~~150°C to 200°C and a pressure of 10 barg to 20 barg.

22. (currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 21, characterized in that the ~~drag stream~~ withdrawn overhead stream is treated in the clay treater at a temperature of ~~170~~170°C to 180°C and a pressure of 14 barg to 16 barg.

23-25. (canceled)